

Remarks

Claims 3-5 and 8-11 are pending in the application. Claims 3-5 and 8-11 are rejected. Claims 3-5 and 8-11 are amended herein. No new matter is added. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 3-5 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yang, et al., (U.S. 5,917,819 – Yang).

The claims explicitly recite operations performed on an Ethernet packet, indicating a packet switched network. Yang describes asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switching, which indicates a circuit switched network. A person of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand that circuit switched traffic follows a predefined path through the network (VCI/VPI). In contrast, packet switched traffic direction is determined on a hop-by-hop basis, where the switches determine a direction of the next hop based on the destination address of the packet.

MPEP 2131 explicitly states that in order to anticipate a claim "each and every element as set forth in the claims" must be found in the prior art reference." The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." Yang is directed entirely to ATM circuit switched networks and therefore can never anticipate Ethernet packet switching, as claimed. The rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

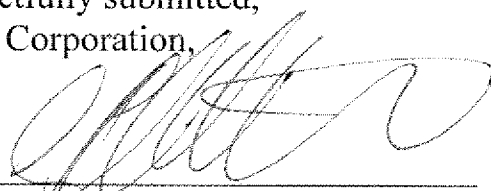
Further, independent claims 3, 8 and 11 recite a first indication from the look-up engine to the processor that associated data has been obtained, and a

second indication from the processor to the look-up engine, in response to the first indication, the second indication indicating a processing function has been performed. Yang never describes the claimed second indication. Each input/output module (IOM) in Yang includes translation circuit 18 and lookup table 20. An IOM receiving a cell (receiving IOM) determines what ports the cell will exit through and generates a local header specifying the IOMs through which the cell will exit (transmitting IOMs). The Examiner points to col. 5 lines 40-col. 6 line 3 as describing the second indication. The Examiners assertion that the overlay is a second indication as claimed is erroneous, because the operations are performed entirely within the transmit IOM. The receiving IOM never receives any notification of what occurs locally at a transmit IOM for a cell. Therefore, Yang can never anticipate what is claimed.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should further questions arise concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number listed below. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 50-3650.

Respectfully submitted,  
3Com Corporation,

By

  
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